URBAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND ITS CHALLENGES: A CASE STUDY OF DHANBAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

SYNOPSIS

Submitted To

The University Department of Political Science
Binod Bihari Mahato Koylanchal University, Dhanbad

FOR THE AWARD OF

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

IN
SOCIAL SCIENCES

BY

KHUSHBOO KUMARI

REGISTRATION NO:……
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
BINOD BIHARI MAHTO KOYLANCHAL UNIVERSITY, DHANBAD

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

DR. SUMITA TIWARI
(Department of Political Science, S.S.L.N.T. College, Dhanbad)
BINOD BIHARI MAHTO KOYLANCHAL UNIVERSITY, DHANBAD

January, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The 74th Amendment to the Constitution, 1992 has introduced part lX A and added 12th schedule in the constitution, which deals with the issues that the municipalities or the urban local governance face, in the article 243P to 243ZG. This Act is mainly based on urban planning, management and Development in India, the need for 74th CAA (Constitutional Amendment Act) or urban local governance was felt after the addition to rapid urbanisation, congestion, industrialization and densification. Due to These activities, stress on common masses and infrastructure are under pressure. Most of these problems and activities are interrelated and require appropriate government efforts.

It is concerned with the institution of administration or governance, which formulating, regulating, implementing recommendations and subject matters related to urban affairs. Thus, It provides more services to the local people and concerns them with their daily live's need. In the constitution, urban local governance is a part of the state list. Thus, the regulation of urban governance varies across States. Experts have highlighted that the needs and issues or challenges of inhabitants living in Maharashtra urban region May be different from those people residing in Jharkhand urban region.

Jharkhand, we can say that, according to available data of jharkhand urban Continuum, placed as one of the most backward and unplanned State in India along with the patterns of urbanisation in Jharkhand are unbalanced as per 2011 census, the total number of urban population in jharkhand, 64.54% conspicuous only in five districts: Ranchi, Bokaro, Ramgarh, Purbi Singhbhum and Dhanbad. Dhanbad, known for coal Mining, is a highly industrialised district in Jharkhand. Due to rapid mining and industrial activities, rural people are attracted towards the urban region of Dhanbad for job opportunities, better education, health and for more urban services. Because of these kinds of activities like rapid urbanisation, industrialization,

migration brings a number of problems and challenges for its administration, including a financial crisis, lack of management capacity, coordination issues, poor governance and corruption.

Thus, the challenges faced by urban local governance, with special reference to Dhanbad Municipal corporation (DMC) deserve the attention of all and must be given due consideration with the lens of proper administration and governance of Dhanbad district. Therein lies the importance of the present research work entitled:

"URBAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE And IT'S CHALLENGES: A CASE STUDY OF Dhanbad Municipal corporation."

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Urban local governance encompasses various facets of urban studies, including urban planning, development, the drivers of urbanisation, administration, governmental reforms, and the challenges confronting urban local bodies. Numerous scholars have provided significant insight to understanding the mechanisms governing cities.

Bandyopadhyay, S., Bohra, O. P., & Sharma, A. (May 2011)[1]. “Decentralisation in Jharkhand: Some Implications for Urban Service Delivery.” This study discusses urban decentralisation in Jharkhand, addressing urban governance and the issues faced by it, while highlighting the state's excessive control and its negative impact on the functioning of local bodies.

Srivastava, O.P. (1980)[2]. Municipal Government and Administration in India. This paper underscores the importance of finance for urban local bodies, proposing measures to enhance the financial viability of municipal corporations. Additionally, the author suggests adopting flexibility in tax rates.

Awasthi, A. (1972)[3]. Municipal Administration in India. This study addresses the challenges associated with a high influx of settlers from rural areas, which impact the economic, social, and cultural landscapes in urban spaces.

Maheshwari, S. R. (2006)[4]. Local Government in India. This work highlights how urbanisation leads to increased population concentration, resulting in heightened demand for food, water, and infrastructure, which often surpasses local capacity.

Mishra, S.N., Mishra, A.D., Mishra, S. (2003)[5]. Public Governance and Decentralisation. This study talks about the booming growth of the urban population, which surpasses the pace of infrastructure development, leading to a poor quality of life.

Pathak, P., & Mehta, D. (1995)[6]. Recent Trends in Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration in India. This study highlights the increase in urban population due to migrants from rural areas and examines resulting issues like the capacity constraints of management, unplanned urbanisation, and challenges in municipal service delivery.

Kumar, N. (n.d.). Urban Continuum in Jharkhand: Beyond the State Formation (Jan, 2015)[7]. This study highlights a downward trajectory in urban dynamics. Specifically, Dhanbad and Bokaro districts are experiencing significant growth, with numerous new towns emerging, notably 45% in Dhanbad alone. However, the future trajectory appears uneven, primarily due to industrial growth, posing numerous challenges for residents and city administration alike.

Ray, A., & Bhattacharjee, M. (1973)[8]. Political Theory: Ideas and Institutions. This paper emphasises the importance of effective coordination among administrative staff. The authors also highlight the issue of inadequate coordination within municipalities in urban regions.

Sharma, S.K., & Chawla, V. N. (1975)[9]. Municipal Administration in India: Some Reflections. In their work, scholars considered organisation as the backbone of administration, with special emphasis on its importance for municipal administration.

Trivedi, H.R. (1975)[10]. Urbanisation and Macro-Social Change. Here, the scholar mainly highlights the issues arising after urbanisation, such as civic needs and their associated problems, alongside the functioning of municipal administration.

Shri Naidu released the India Infrastructure Report (IIR 2023)[11], emphasising urban planning and development. The former Vice President of India highlighted, "Urban planning is an essential component of nation-building."

XaXa, A. (2021)[12]. "Exploring Urban expansion in a Tribal Region: Insights from a Fifth Schedule Area of India." This article provides a comprehensive examination of urban planning and governance dynamics in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand state. The author sheds light on the nuanced conflicts and contestations between tribal and non-tribal populations, advocating for a transformative approach to urban planning that prioritises inclusivity and equitable development.

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in 2015[13] under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, aims to establish infrastructure to ensure robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation.

NITI Aayog released a report on "Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India" in September 2021[14]. This report addresses the challenges posed by rapid urban growth to sustainable development. As per this report, during the period of 2011-2036, urban growth is projected to account for 73% of the rise in the total population.

Jha, Ramnath. (April 06, 2023)[15]. National Budget 2022-23 and Its Focus on Urban Planning. The author here highlights India's Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman's focus on urban planning in her Union Budget Speech for 2022-23. Sitharaman emphasised that "Urban planning is a vital instrument for achieving systematic urban development," underscoring the significance of well planned urban expansion in the nation's development agenda.

The literature review above indicates a wealth of research concerning towns, cities, and town governance. However, there appears a gap in studies focusing specifically on the challenges faced by governance in Dhanbad and other urban localities managed by municipal administrations. Moreover, lack of research in addressing the challenges of rapid urbanisation experienced by residents of Dhanbad district and the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation (DMC). This gap presents an opportunity for further research

to delve into the unique issues and complexities of urban governance and rapid urbanisation in Dhanbad and similar contexts.

PROBLEMS TO BE INVESTIGATED/RESEARCH GAP

While numerous books and papers are written on urban governance, most of them focus on specific aspects. However, there is limited research providing a comprehensive view of the unplanned urbanisation patterns in Jharkhand and the urban governance issues specifically related to Dhanbad Municipal Corporation. There are major problems within the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation that need investigation:

- Lack of finance
- Shortage of staff
- Lackluster skill development among administrative staff
- Complexities related to revenue collection (tax and non-tax)

These issues require in-depth exploration and analysis to understand their impact on the functioning and effectiveness of the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation's governance structure.

OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

- To understand the urban local governance of Dhanbad Municipal Corporation and its issues concerning the rapid urbanisation of Dhanbad district.
- To observe the participation of urban dwellers in Dhanbad in the affairs of municipal governance.
- To foster a better financial database, making urban local bodies financially independent, and ensuring active citizen participation in urban affairs.
- To explore the impact of ICT in Urban Development

HYPOTHESIS

- Dhanbad Municipal Corporation facing civic challenges because of rapid urbanisation.
- There exists a correlation between the challenges faced by Dhanbad urban dwellers and their primarily attributed inactive participation in the affairs of municipal governance.
- Excessive state control, acute scarcity of finance, and a low level of people's participation are some reasons for poor urban governance.
- ICT plays an important role in urban planning and development

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the following research work, primary and secondary data will be collected by the researcher. For the collection of primary data, Dhanbad Municipal Corporation (DMC) will be selected. There are a total of 55 wards within the Dhanbad municipal area, and for the study, 25 wards will be selected through simple random sampling (SRS). Visits to DMC and its wards shall be conducted, which will provide ground-level reality facts and issues. Preparation of questionnaires will be required to gain an in-depth understanding of the situation. For obtaining secondary data, previous research work, books, journals, government reports, municipal records, and internet sources will be examined.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

The main significance of this research is to strengthen or empower urban local governance because urban local governance is the major supplier of essential civic services and facilities in our urban areas. It also represents the grassroots of democracy throughout the local level. In the India Infrastructure Report, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Former Vice-President of India, remarked that "Urban planning is an essential component of nation-building" (IIR 2023). A report released by NITI Aayog in 2021 on 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India' pointed out that during 2011-2036, urban population will reach 73%, indicating that half of the population will be living in cities. In the Union Budget Speech for 2022-23, by India's Finance

Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman, attention to urban development was ensured with a focus on urban planning. The Finance Minister (FM) mainly addressed that "urban planning is the key instrument for achieving systematic urban development" (Jha, R., National Budget 2022-23 and its focus on urban planning).

The fast rate of urbanisation because of migration, the role of urban administration has become utmost important and it plays a crucial role to regulate the life of the common masses.

The significance of the present research work "Urban local governance And Its Challenges: A Case study of Dhanbad Municipal Corporation" exists because Dhanbad is a highly mining industrialised district of Jharkhand. We can easily see rapid mining activities in Dhanbad and rural people are attracted towards these activities because of job opportunities and urban services. A high number of people come from rural areas and create messy urbanisation，this create challenges for municipal administration that how to regulate unbalanced patterns of urbanisation ， resolve their issues and fulfill their needs.

LIMITATION OF THE RESEARCH

The main limitation of this research work will be accountability and transparency with the staff and officials of DMC. It can be a very sensitive process to take an interview or raise questions on the system and government. Since people lack proper information, they might not be completely transparent with the information they provide.

CHAPTERISATION

Introduction

Chapter 1: Urban Local Governance in India

In the introductory chapter of this research work, the concept of urban local governance in India will be analysed in detail, with an emphasis on the issues of urban local governance.

Chapter 2: Development of Municipal Administration in Jharkhand: A Historical Account

In the second chapter of this research work, the focus will be on understanding the history of municipal administration in Jharkhand and its development.

Chapter 3 - Urbanisation and challenges of Dhanbad Municipal Corporation

In the forthcoming third chapter of this research work, special emphasis will be given to urbanisation, including the challenges faced by Dhanbad Municipal Corporation. The chapter will also discuss the responsibilities towards resolving the issues arising from rapid urbanisation.

Chapter 4: The Role of ICT in Urban Governance and Administration

In the fourth chapter of this research work, the focus will be on discussing the role of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in empowering the functioning of ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) or urban governance and administration.

Chapter 5: Urban Planning and Development in Dhanbad Municipal Corporation (DMC)

In the fifth chapter of the research work, the emphasis will be on understanding how effective urban planning, management, and development play a critical role in empowering the functioning of Dhanbad Municipal Corporation.

Conclusion

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